

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for strengthening a paper or textile article, comprising the steps of:
 - 5 (a) applying to the article a solution of an amorphous fluoropolymer in a perfluoroalkane solvent; and
 - (b) drying the article so that the solvent is essentially removed.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the fluoropolymer has a molecular weight in the range of from 200,000 to 400,000.
- 10 3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the fluoropolymer is a copolymer of 4,5-difluoro-2,2-bis(trifluoromethyl)-1,3-dioxole with either tetrafluoroethylene or chlorotrifluoroethylene.
4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the fluoropolymer is a copolymer of tetrafluoroethylene with a monomer selected from fluoroolefins having from 2 to
15 8 carbon atoms and fluorinated alkyl vinyl ethers where the alkyl group contains from 1 to 5 carbons.
5. A strengthened paper article, comprising:
 - (i) a fibrous paper substrate; and
 - (ii) amorphous fluoropolymer interconnecting fibers of said substrate.
- 20 6. The strengthened paper of Claim 5 wherein the fluoropolymer has a molecular weight in the range of from 200,000 to 400,000.
7. The strengthened paper of Claim 5 wherein the fluoropolymer is a copolymer of 4,5-difluoro-2,2-bis(trifluoromethyl)-1,3-dioxole with either tetrafluoroethylene or chlorotrifluoroethylene.
- 25 8. The strengthened paper of Claim 5 wherein the fluoropolymer is a copolymer of tetrafluoroethylene with a monomer selected from fluoroolefins having from 2 to 8 carbon atoms and fluorinated alkyl vinyl ethers where the alkyl group contains from 1 to 5 carbons.
9. A strengthened textile article, comprising:
 - 30 (i) a fibrous textile substrate; and
 - (ii) amorphous fluoropolymer interconnecting fibers of said substrate.